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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~ 25X1A [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (SBZ, Berlin Sector) DATE DIST. 7 April 1948

SUBJECT Berlin Assembly's Reflections of the Russian Element

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

25X1A [redacted]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X

[redacted]

[redacted] 25X1X

1. On 21 March 1948 a Russian officer from the staff of Major General Kotikov, Soviet City Commandant of Berlin, paid a visit to Dr. Otto Suhr (SED), Speaker of the Berlin City Assembly. This officer warned Suhr that, in the future, anyone making anti-Russian speeches on the floor of the Assembly would immediately be arrested. Kotikov was holding Suhr personally responsible for the behavior of the anti-Russian majority in the Assembly.

2. On 22 March, Suhr notified the City Assembly of the above-described communication. He stated that he would not act as sheriff on the behalf of any occupying power, and accordingly notified Kotikov that he would not obey the order. Subsequently the Assembly voted to request a clarification of the matter from the Komendatura and passed a vote of confidence in Dr. Suhr. The SED elements in the Assembly abstained from voting. ([redacted] Comment: The information in this paragraph has already appeared in the press.) 25X1A

3. Dr. Suhr has remarked that he expects that the Russians will now request his removal from office for disobeying an Allied order. He is convinced, however, that the Americans and the British will support him. General Kotikov would then be able to state that the western powers were encouraging a German to disobey the order of an occupying power.

25X1A [redacted] Comment: The Russian order to Suhr was clearly illegal, but it is believed that the issue may be sufficiently important to give the Russians an excuse to dissolve the quadripartite Komendatura if such action is deemed necessary. The next Komendatura meeting is scheduled for 13 April.)

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 17 May 78 By: 017

VOID

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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